

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 AGR-20

DRC-01 /200 W

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R 151526Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4792

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 29467

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO DELAY IN CONGRESSIONAL
CONSIDERATION OF TRADE REFORM BILL

1. FRENCH PRESS PAID RELATIVELY SLIGHT ATTENTION TO
PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO REQUEST DELAY IN CONSIDERATION
OF TRADE REFORM BILL BY HOUSE, PROBABLY DUE TO PREOCCUPATION
WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST.
AFP TOOK CRITICAL LINE BUT LE MONDE AND LE FIGARO ADOPTED
DISPASSIONATE, FACTUAL APPROACH.

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2. AFP DISPATCH ON NOVEMBER 9 REPORTED "SURPRISE AND UNEASINESS"

IN QUARTERS CLOSE TO GATT AND THE MTN AT PRESIDENT' S DECISION, POINTING OUT THAT CERTAIN EXPERTS BELIEVED THE SECTION CONCERNING MFN TREATMENT FOR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES COULD HAVE BEEN "DISSOCIATED" FROM THE REST OF THE BILL IN ORDER TO ALLOW RAPID ADOPTION OF A TEXT CONSTITUTING THE U.S. NEGOTIATING MANDATE. AFP FURTHER OBSERVED THAT PREPARATORY PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD ALREADY GOTTEN OFF TO A BAD START IN OCTOBER WITH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS ON MODALITIES FOR HANDLING AGRICULTURE, AND PRESIDENT' S DECISION MADE ATMOSPHERE EVEN HEAVIER.

3. LE MONDE RELEGATED STORY TO BACK PAGES OF NOVEMBER 9 EDITION, GIVING SHORT FACTUAL ACCOUNT WITH NO COMMENTARY. LE FIGARO PICKED UP STORY IN BUSINESS SECTION ON NOVEMBER 13 UNDER HEADING: "NIXON ROUND: NEGOTIATIONS AT A STANDSTILL." ARTICLE SURMISED THAT ATMOSPHERE AT 25TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GATT WOULD BE GLOOMY DUE TO POSTPONEMENT OF EFFECTIVE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS CAUSED BY SUSPENSION OF HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF TRADE BILL, COMMENTING THAT U.S. DELEGATES AT GENEVA PRESENTLY POSSESSED "NO POWER". ARTICLE CONFIRMED THAT EXPERTS WERE NOT "INORDINATELY" ANXIOUS OVER SITUATION AS THEY UNDERSTOOD U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES COULD CAUSE DELAYS OF SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE U.S. DELEGATES RECEIVED OFFICIAL "GREEN LIGHT"; HOWEVER, A DELAY OF MORE THAN ONE OR TWO MONTHS COULD UPSET THE CALENDAR FOR CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS29467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731132/aaaaawzk.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO DELAY IN CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF TRADE REFORM BILL
TAGS: ECON, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005